

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A vascular graft suitable for implantation in an adult human, comprising:

a preserved, **isolated** vessel produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the **isolated** vessel is directly lyophilized without chemical denaturing, ~~said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh frame work~~, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and

a removable stent to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel, wherein the removable stent is located in a lumen of said preserved, **isolated** vessel prior to implantation;

wherein following rehydration of the preserved, isolated vessel is suitable for implantation in an adult human.

28. (Currently Amended) The vascular graft of claim 27, in which said preserved, **isolated** vessel ~~comprises~~ **is** a vein.

29. (Currently Amended) The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved, **isolated** vessel ~~comprises~~ **is** an artery.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved, **isolated** vessel is free of fetal blood by way of irrigation.

32. (Currently Amended) The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved, **isolated** vessel comprises a straight vessel segment.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved, isolated vessel comprises a branching vessel segment.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The vascular graft of claim 31 in which said preserved, isolated vessel free of fetal blood by irrigation is free of fetal blood through irrigation with heparin solution.

35. (Previously Presented) The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said stent is a nylon stent.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The vascular graft of claim 27 in which said preserved, isolated vessel possesses a plurality of branches and further includes a plurality of removable stents each located in a lumen of each of said plurality of branches of said preserved, isolated vessel prior to implantation, wherein the removable stents facilitate handling of the preserved, isolated vessel.

37. (Previously Presented) The vascular graft of claim 36 in which said plurality of stents comprise nylon stents.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A preserved, isolated vessel suitable for implantation as a vascular graft in an adult human produced by direct lyophilization without chemical denaturing of a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein said preserved, isolated vessel comprises a removable stent located in a lumen of said preserved, isolated vessel to facilitate handling of the preserved, isolated vessel;

~~wherein the preserved vessel exhibits low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood~~

wherein following rehydration of the preserved, isolated vessel is suitable for implantation in an adult human.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved, isolated vessel comprises is a vein or an artery.

40. (Canceled)

41. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved, isolated vessel comprises a straight vessel segment or a branching vessel segment.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38 in which fetal blood is removed from the vessel by irrigation.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 42 in which irrigation is performed with a heparin solution.

44. (Canceled)

45. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of ~~claim 44~~ claim.38 in which said stent is a nylon stent.

46. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved vessel possesses a plurality of branches and further includes a plurality of removable stents each located in a lumen of each of said plurality of branches of said preserved, isolated vessel prior to implantation, wherein the removable stents facilitate handling of the preserved vessel.

47. **(Currently Amended)** The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 46 in which said plurality of removable stents comprise nylon stents.

48. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** A method for implanting a vascular graft, the method comprising:

rehydrating the preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38; and
implanting the rehydrated vessel into a recipient site in a human patient.

49. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** The method of claim 48, ~~wherein the preserved vessel has a removable stent located in a lumen of said preserved vessel prior to implantation, wherein the~~

~~removable stent facilitates handling of the preserved vessel, and wherein the method further comprises removing said removable stent prior to completing said implanting.~~

50.- 51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A vascular graft suitable for implantation in an adult human, consisting essentially of:

a preserved, isolated vessel produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, ~~said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and~~

a removable stent positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved, isolated vessel;

wherein following rehydration of the preserved, isolated vessel is suitable for implantation in an adult human.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A containerized preserved, isolated vessel comprising: a canister; and

a preserved, isolated vessel according to claim 27 contained in the canister, ~~the preserved vessel having a removable stent positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel,~~

~~wherein the preserved vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and~~

wherein the canister is capable of maintaining the preserved, isolated vessel in a sterile environment.

55. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ containerized preserved vessel of claim 54, wherein the canister comprises a vacuum seal to maintain storage of the preserved, isolated vessel under vacuum.

56. (Withdrawn- Currently Amended) A containerized preserved, isolated vessel consisting essentially of:

a canister; and

a preserved, isolated vessel according to claim 27 contained in the canister, ~~the preserved vessel having a removable stent positioned in a lumen of the preserved vessel prior to implantation to facilitate handling of the preserved vessel,~~

~~wherein the preserved vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein the vessel is lyophilized without chemical denaturing, said preserved vessel exhibiting low antigenicity, high patency, and integrity when implanted as a vascular graft in an adult human without a stent or supporting mesh framework, said preserved vessel being substantially free of fetal blood; and~~

wherein the canister is capable of maintaining the preserved vessel in a sterile environment.

57. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ containerized preserved, isolated vessel of ~~claim 57~~ claim 56, wherein the canister comprises a vacuum seal to maintain storage of the preserved, isolated vessel under vacuum.

58. (New) The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38 in which said preserved, isolated vessel is an artery.

59. (New) The vascular graft of claim 27, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

60. (New) The vascular graft of claim 27, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human placenta.

61. (New) The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

62. (New) The preserved, isolated vessel of claim 38, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human placenta.

63. (New) The vascular graft of claim 52, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

64. (New) The vascular graft of claim 52, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human placenta.

65. (New) The containerized preserved, isolated vessel of claim 54, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

66. (New) The containerized preserved, isolated vessel of claim 54, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human placenta.

67. (New) The containerized preserved, isolated vessel of claim 56, wherein the preserved vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

68. (New) The containerized preserved, isolated vessel of claim 56, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced from a vessel isolated from a human placenta.

69. (New) A method for implanting a graft in an adult human, the method comprising:
rehydrating a preserved, isolated vessel produced by direct lyophilization without chemical denaturing of a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord or human placenta, wherein said preserved, isolated vessel comprises a removable stent located in a lumen of said preserved, isolated vessel to facilitate handling of the preserved, isolated vessel, and wherein following rehydration the preserved, isolated vessel is suitable for implantation in an adult human;
removing the removable stent; and

implanting the rehydrated vessel into a recipient site in an adult human patient.

70. **(New)** The method of claim 69, wherein the removable stent is removed prior to said implanting.

71. **(New)** The method of claim 69, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced by direct lyophilization without chemical denaturing of a vessel isolated from a human umbilical cord.

72. **(New)** The method of claim 69, wherein the preserved, isolated vessel is produced by direct lyophilization without chemical denaturing of a vessel isolated from a human placenta.